

Town Council Meeting: 12 September 2005



Town of Garrett Park
PO Box 84
4600 Waverly Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council
Garrett Park Town Hall
10814 Kenilworth Avenue
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Minutes

Call to Order: Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Present were Councilmembers Benjamin, Bennett, Soltan, and Wegner, and Town Administrator Pratt. Also present was Margaret Soltan from *The Bugle*; Lee Derby, Garrett Park Elementary School (GPES) Principal; Barbara Ferry, GPES Parent-Teachers Organization (PTA) President; Gene Brantley, Co-Garrett Park Citizens Association President; Bob Reinhardt, Historic Preservation Committee Chair; and a number of Town residents.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as distributed without objection.

Presentations by Citizens:

- Gene Brantley reminded the Council that the second Citizens Association meeting on proposed changes to the Garrett Park Zoning Overlay District would be held on the evening of Wednesday, September 28th and that the Newcomers Reception would be on Sunday, October 2nd at the Town Hall from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Mayor Shawaker reminded the Council that the Penn Place Art Display Committee was holding a gala in the Penn Place Lobby on Sunday, September 18th from 3:00 pm until 5:00 pm.
- Resident Dick Pratt commented on the draft parking ordinance.
- Resident Peter Cohen had questions about the Strathmore Avenue project which Councilmembers Benjamin and Wegner answered.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Shawaker reported that due to increased responsibility at work, Councilmember Altar had less time to devote to the Infrastructure Committee and had asked her to help out.

Presentations:

- Garrett Park Elementary School – PTA President Barbara Ferry and Principal Lee Derby briefed the Council on the school's rebuilding project. A new addition is to be constructed this year, with demolition and reconstruction of the main school building to follow in a few years.

Councilmember's Reports

- Strathmore Avenue Update – Councilmember Wegner reported that he had been gathering quotes for installing real stone veneer on the retaining walls along Strathmore Avenue and the prices were running from \$40,000 to \$53,000. He also reported he was waiting for specific information on when the proposed retrofit lamp and lenses would be available for viewing. Councilmember Wegner noted that he was updating the punch list by contacting residents affected by the project, and then responded to questions from Councilmembers and residents.
- Arboretum Update – Councilmember Soltan reported on the recent Arboretum Committee meeting, noting that the committee would be preparing a detailed plan for fall and spring plantings. Due to the significant number of large trees that had had to be removed, it was expected that the Committee would be asking for an increase in its budget to accommodate this plan. Councilmember Benjamin requested that the committee suggest a source of funding for such an increase.
- Speed Limit Ordinance – Councilmember Soltan, standing in for Councilmember Altar, updated the Council on progress made in developing the ordinance and the related public information campaign.

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Soltan **MOVED**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting of 07/11/05 be approved as distributed, noting that Councilmember Benjamin's comments had been incorporated in the distributed draft. Councilmember Wegner seconded the motion which **PASSED** unanimously.

Action/Discussion:

- Introduction of Ordinance 2005-03: Amending Chapter 8 by adding Section 813 Parking on Rokeby Avenue – Mayor Shawaker asked that a member of the Council move to introduce the ordinance. Councilmember Soltan **MOVED** That Ordinance 2005-04 be introduced. Councilmember Benjamin objected, stating that the locations of the areas in question were not defined in a manner that could be determined unambiguously, and used place names and locations that were unclear. The motion **FAILED** through lack of a second.
- Garrett Park Overlay District Amendment Update – Historic Preservation Committee Chair Bob Reinhardt discussed the recent Citizens Association meeting with the Council. There was extended discussion, during which Councilmember Altar entered the room and took his place at the table.
- Garrett Park Overlay District Amendment Process – Mayor Shawaker asked the Council to review the overlay district amending process. Councilmember Benjamin stated that he was troubled about the high number of concerns with the process that were expressed at the Citizens Association meeting and suggested that the current proposal by the Planning Board staff be set aside and that the Historic Preservation Committee and citizens more clearly define the problems that required an amendment and what actions might be taken to solve those problems. Councilmember Wegner concurred. Mayor Shawaker noted that the County Council had a number of general zoning amendments

under consideration that would impact Garrett Park. Councilmember Bennett commented that much of the problem identification had already taken place and questioned the benefit of going back to the beginning when so much work had already been done.

Councilmember Soltan then requested that the Council consider a resolution committing the Council to holding a non-binding referendum prior to referring any changes in the Garrett Park Overlay District to the County. Councilmember Wegner stated that he felt consideration of such a resolution was premature, especially in the absence of any specific proposal for an Overlay Zone amendment being before the Council. After extended discussion regarding the text of the resolution, Councilmember Soltan **MOVED**

It is the intent of the Garrett Park Town Council to hold a non-binding referendum asking the citizens of Garrett Park for a 'Yes' or 'No' vote on the actual language proposed for an overlay district amendment prior to the Council voting on such an amendment. The motion **PASSED** with Councilmembers Altar, Benjamin, and Soltan voting in the affirmative and Councilmembers Bennett and Wegner voting in the negative.

Town Administrator Report: Town Administrator Pratt presented the draft Monthly Financials report and asked Councilmembers to indicate the level of detail they would like to see on future reports. Administrator Pratt also reported that all the information needed for completing the FY 2005 Audit was in the hands of the Auditors, and that he expected a draft audit before the October Council meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[TOWN SEAL]

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer